

HCS HB 742 -- STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK GROUPS

SPONSOR: Bahr

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill specifies that each work group convened by the State Board of Education must elect a chairperson and a secretary. The secretary must record specified information and minutes and provide the information to work group members before meetings for a vote of approval. Once elected for positions the persons elected must submit their names, phone numbers, email addresses, and mailing addresses to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, President Pro Tem of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives. The chairperson and secretary must respond to any inquiry from the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, President Pro Tem, and Speaker within five business days of any inquiry.

Any person selected under these provisions will serve on the work group at the pleasure of the person who has selected him or her. He or she may be removed at any time and for any reason as the person who selected him or her deems necessary.

If a work group member's qualifications are challenged by a member of the work group or an appointing agency, a panel consisting of the chairpersons of the other seven work groups must review the member's qualifications and the member must, within 30 days, provide proof to the panel that he or she is qualified to serve. If the panel determines that the member does not meet the qualifications, he or she must be considered removed from the work group and the original appointing entity must appoint a qualified person to fill the position within 30 days of the disqualified member's dismissal.

Work groups must submit a monthly progress report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, President Pro Tem of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives by the 5th day of each month. The chairpersons must update the offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, President Pro Tem, and Speaker as to any changes in member contact information. If a quorum is not reached for a meeting, the work group members present are authorized work as a subcommittee. A quorum must be present for any vote to occur. If a specific member misses more than four meetings within a six month period, the work group may, by a majority vote, recommend to the panel that the member be removed from the work group and if a member is so dismissed by majority vote, he or she must be replaced

within 30 days of dismissal with a new member appointed by the original appointing entity.

Work group members must be reimbursed by the department for travel expenses, including overnight accommodations, meals, and mileage reimbursement using the state per-diem formula and the department must reimburse school districts for the cost of a substitute teacher if a work group member is required to miss a school day to attend a work group meeting. A district policy or administrative action cannot prohibit a teacher member from participating in a work group meeting nor can any teacher member be required to use personal leave or have a reduction in pay for participating in a work group meeting.

Work groups are authorized to establish as many grade-level expectations as believed necessary for each grade level. Work groups are required to meet with and collaborate with other work groups of the same subject area in order to ensure alignment of grade-level expectations. Before making any recommendations as to grade-level expectations or academic performance standards, the work groups are required to ensure that any standards developed or recommendations made are:

- (1) In compliance with the Show-Me Standards;
- (2) Age appropriate and developmentally appropriate; and
- (3) Understandable to teachers in that subject area.

Currently, the State Board of Education is required to adopt and implement academic performance standards beginning in the 2016-17 school year. This bill specifies that the State Board of Education may adopt as written, the academic performance standards developed and recommended by the work groups beginning in the 2016-17 school year, with implementation by the department. If the State Board of Education declines to adopt the standards, the board must provide suggestions for improvement to the work groups. The State Board of Education must align the statewide assessment system to the academic performance standards as needed.

The bill also extends the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's pilot assessments from the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium to two years.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill clarifies the process created in HB 1490 from the 2014 Session and satisfies issues that have arisen since the process was implemented.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bahr and Missouri

National Education Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.